

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

JEVON D. WATKINS,

Plaintiff,

-against-

MONROE COLLEGE; TERRY KARG; FMR.
DEAN GINESE; JOHN DOE (COLLEGE
FINANCIAL AID ADMIN); COLLEGE PRES.
JEROME,

Defendants.

25-CV-3533 (LTS)

ORDER DIRECTING PRISONER
AUTHORIZATION

LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN, Chief United States District Judge:

Plaintiff, who states that he is currently incarcerated at Norristown State Hospital in Norristown, Pennsylvania, brings this action *pro se*. To proceed with a civil action in this Court, a prisoner must either pay \$405.00 in fees – a \$350.00 filing fee plus a \$55.00 administrative fee – or, to request permission to proceed without prepayment of fees, submit a signed IFP application and a prisoner authorization. *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1914, 1915. If the Court grants a prisoner’s IFP application, the Prison Litigation Reform Act requires the Court to collect the \$350.00 filing fee in installments deducted from the prisoner’s account. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). A prisoner seeking to proceed in this Court without prepayment of fees must therefore also authorize the Court to withdraw these payments from his account by filing a “prisoner authorization,” which directs the facility where the prisoner is incarcerated to deduct the \$350.00 filing fee¹ from the prisoner’s account in installments and to send to this Court

¹ The \$55.00 administrative fee for filing a civil action does not apply to persons granted IFP status under 28 U.S.C. § 1915.

certified copies of the prisoner's account statements for the past six months. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2), (b).

The IFP statute defines a "prisoner" as "any person incarcerated or detained in any facility who is accused of, convicted of, sentenced for, or adjudicated delinquent for, violations of criminal law or the terms and conditions of parole, probation, pretrial release, or diversionary program." 28 U.S.C. § 1915(h). In his IFP application, Plaintiff states that he is incarcerated at the Norristown State Hospital (ECF 2, at 1), which is a state forensic psychiatric hospital, and the complaint also includes a statement that Plaintiff is incarcerated and what appears to be a prisoner identification number (*see* ECF 1, at 7, 14). It therefore appears that Plaintiff was a prisoner at the time he filed this action.

Plaintiff submitted an IFP application, but he did not submit a prisoner authorization. Within 30 days of the date of this order, Plaintiff must either pay the \$405.00 in fees or complete and submit the attached prisoner authorization. If Plaintiff submits the prisoner authorization, it should be labeled with docket number 25-CV-3533 (LTS).² If Plaintiff was not a prisoner, as defined by Section 1915(h), at the time he filed this action, he is directed to provide an explanation of his status at the time he filed the complaint using the attached declaration form.

No summons shall issue at this time. If Plaintiff complies with this order, the case shall be processed in accordance with the procedures of the Clerk's Office. If Plaintiff fails to comply with this order within the time allowed, the action will be dismissed.

² Plaintiff is cautioned that if a prisoner files a federal civil action that is dismissed as frivolous or malicious, or for failure to state a claim on which relief may be granted, the dismissal is a "strike" under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). A prisoner who receives three "strikes" cannot file federal civil actions IFP as a prisoner, unless he is under imminent danger of serious physical injury, and must pay the filing fee at the time of filing any new action.

The Court certifies under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3) that any appeal from this order would not be taken in good faith, and therefore IFP status is denied for the purpose of an appeal. *Cf. Coppededge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 444–45 (1962) (holding that appellant demonstrates good faith when seeking review of a nonfrivolous issue).

The Clerk of Court is directed to mail a copy of this order to Plaintiff at the address on file as well as to: Norristown State Hospital, Building 51 Alpha 1, 1001 Sterigere Street, Norristown, PA 19401-5397.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: May 9, 2025
New York, New York

/s/ Laura Taylor Swain
LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN
Chief United States District Judge

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

(full name of the plaintiff/petitioner)

-against-

CV _____ () ()

(Provide docket number, if available; if filing this with your complaint, you will not yet have a docket number.)

(full name(s) of the defendant(s)/respondent(s))

PRISONER AUTHORIZATION

By signing below, I acknowledge that:

- (1) because I filed this action as a prisoner,¹ I am required by statute (28 U.S.C. § 1915) to pay the full filing fees for this case, even if I am granted the right to proceed *in forma pauperis* (IFP), that is, without prepayment of fees;
- (2) if I am granted IFP status, the full \$350 filing fee will be deducted in installments from my prison account, even if my case is dismissed or I voluntarily withdraw it.

I authorize the agency holding me in custody to:

- (1) send a certified copy of my prison trust fund account statement for the past six months (from my current institution or any institution in which I was incarcerated during the past six months);
- (2) calculate the amounts specified by 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b), deduct those amounts from my prison trust fund, and disburse those amounts to the Court.

This authorization applies to any agency into whose custody I may be transferred and to any other district court to which my case may be transferred.

Date

Signature

Name (Last, First, MI)

Prison Identification #

Address

City

State

Zip Code

¹ A "prisoner" is "any person incarcerated or detained in any facility who is accused of, convicted of, sentenced for, or adjudicated delinquent for, violations of criminal law or the terms or conditions of parole, probation, pretrial release, or diversionary program." 28 U.S.C. § 1915(h).

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Write the first and last name of each plaintiff or petitioner.

Case No. _____ CV _____
-against-

Write the first and last name of each defendant or respondent.

DECLARATION

Briefly explain above the purpose of the declaration, for example, "in Opposition to Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment," or "in Response to Order to Show Cause."

I, _____, declare under penalty of perjury that the following facts are true and correct:

In the space below, describe any facts that are relevant to the motion or that respond to a court order. You may also refer to and attach any relevant documents.

Attach additional pages and documents if necessary.

Executed on (date)

Signature

Name _____

Prison Identification # (if incarcerated)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Telephone Number (if available)

E-mail Address (if available)